

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A hybrid radio apparatus for a mobile radio station capable of operating in at least two different radio networks simultaneously, employing at least two different protocols, the hybrid radio apparatus comprising:

a hybridization module for at least a first one of the networks; and

radio equipment for at least a second one of the networks;

said hybridization module comprising electronics and software necessary to emulate some or all protocols of the first network, and communicating at a peer level with protocols of the second network resident in the hybrid radio apparatus, said emulation and peer level communication allowing an appearance of communication via network A.

2. The hybrid radio apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hybridization module is tailored to a set of network protocols which contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of ACARS, VDL/2, and VDL/4.

3. The hybrid radio apparatus of claim 1, wherein the radio equipment is designed to operate with a set of systems which contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of ACARS, VDL/2, and VDL/4.

4. The hybrid radio apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hybridization module operates for ACARS and the radio equipment operates for a VDL/4 network.

5. The hybrid radio apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hybrid radio apparatus automatically decides to operate via the first network or the second network, when both the first

network and the second network are available, based on pre-set or user-specified decision criteria.

6. A hybrid radio apparatus for a mobile station, the hybrid radio apparatus comprising:

a hybridization module which emulates protocols normally in one or several ground facilities providing services for a first network or system;

mobile radio equipment operating on a second network or system which is different from the first network or system; and

mobile equipment usable with the second network or system over the mobile radio equipment and over the first network or system over the hybridization module.

7. The hybrid radio apparatus of claim 6, wherein the mobile equipment comprises a human interface and management unit.